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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES ON THE COUNTERINSURGENCY LIST

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

W A R N I N G

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Developments in Countries on the
Counterinsurgency List

1. Congo

Fighting intensified in northeast Congo last week, and the rebels continue to hold Mahagi near the Ugandan border along Lake Albert despite mercenary attempts to recapture the town. Reports that Ugandans are with the rebels are unconfirmed. Rebel trucks, probably transporting arms and supplies, have again been seen by aircraft pilots near Aba opposite the Sudanese border.

In the west another attack in the Bolobo area was blocked by Congo Army (ANC) troops stationed in the area. On the morning of 23 January a small group of rebels crossed over from Congo (Brazzaville) in the vicinity of Bolobo, 180 miles up-river from Leopoldville. They captured a small plywood factory, killed three Europeans, seized some vehicles, and fled into the interior. ANC troops from Bolobo were ambushed on the road but managed to scatter this latest group of insurgents. There have been several attempts to seize towns on the left bank of the Congo River. In an attempt last week, another rebel group from Gamboma in Congo (Brazzaville) was driven back across the river.

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Government units in Paulis, which are continuing their build-up for a push to the border to halt arms deliveries to the rebels, have been delayed again. The kick-off date is now set for sometime in February. More mercenaries and trucks are considered necessary before a move is made. Meanwhile, units in Paulis are patrolling freely for distances of 50 miles to the north, east, and south.

The Stanleyville security situation has improved slightly, but rebel concentrations are still reported on the north road and to the northeast. The city continues to suffer sporadic attacks, but the rebels are said to be running out of food and ammunition. Rebel activity continues at a high level in the area along the left bank and downriver from Stanleyville. Government units in Ikela, 150 miles southwest of Stanleyville on the Boende-Stanleyville road, have initiated clean-up operations to the south and southwest.

In eastern Congo, Uvira continues to be threatened by rebels in the surrounding hills. Insurgents controlled a section of Uvira for three days last week but withdrew. A small ANC-mercenary detachment pursued them into the hills and destroyed a rebel camp of some 250 buildings. This unit also captured some drums marked "Tanganyika" and containing chemicals which could be used for making Molotov cocktails. They also captured a 120-mm. mortar--probably one of those reportedly unloaded on 30 October from a Russian ship in Tanzania.

There has been a lull in rebel activity in the Fizi area, but the ANC has still been unable to advance against entrenched rebel positions.

Insurgent activity also increased in Kwilu Province, scene of the original Mulele rebellion. Jeunesse concentrations have been reported along the northern and southeastern borders of the province, but the ANC still controls most of the

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highways and urban areas. Mulele reportedly is hiding in the southeastern border area of the province, and the increased activity may be a forerunner of more aggressive and hostile action there. The rebellion in Kwilu has faltered because of lack of military supplies and the hostility of the surrounding tribes.

2. Sudan

Prospects that parliamentary elections will take place in March are fading. While the non-Communist parties are anxious to dissolve the leftist-influenced transitional government as soon as possible and are pushing hard for cabinet assurances that elections will be held, the Communists still prefer a postponement. The Communists and other leftists can probably secure ample cabinet votes to put off final approval of an electoral law indefinitely.

The growing conflict between the non-Communist Front of Political Parties--led by the Ansar religious brotherhood--and the Communist-backed Professional Front has thus far been limited to an exchange of public accusations and demands. Both groups, however, may soon turn to demonstrations and violence. The Professional Front has already called on the government to lift the present ban on demonstrations.

The inflexibility of the strongly anti-Communist leaders of SANU, the southern dissident organization, is playing into the hands of the leftists. The Communists and most other northern Sudanese insist that any elections held must be nationwide, and SANU refuses to participate in elections until the government meets its presently unrealistic demands for self-rule.

Exiled SANU leaders are now said to have agreed to return to the Sudan for constitutional negotiations. Southern dissident activity, however, is continuing. While both Arabs and southerners still claim to be anxious to settle the southern problem, both sides are taking an increasingly hard line, and there is no indication that any compromise is possible at this time.

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3. Thailand

The Communists appear to be stepping up their propaganda in Thailand. On 23 January a clandestine Communist-operated radio station on the Lao - North Vietnam border announced the formation of a "Patriotic Front of Thailand," which will probably promote the Communist line in elections slated for later this year. In recent months the Communists have called for the ouster of the Thanom government and the "imperialist master," and formed another front called the Thai Independence Movement.

4. Laos

Recent Communist attacks in Sam Neua Province in northern Laos have resulted in the loss of minor government positions west and southwest of Sam Neua town. The attacks apparently are designed to prepare the way for a drive against Hua Muong, a key government position in the province. There are indications that additional North Vietnamese forces and new antiaircraft artillery have been brought into the area. The Communists presently are believed to outnumber government forces in the area by approximately six battalions to three.

The military situation is relatively quiet in other areas of Laos, although there are reports that the Communists are slowly preparing for another push in the vicinity of Tha Thom, south-east of the Plaine des Jarres. The recent capture of a North Vietnamese soldier along Route 9 in the Panhandle lends support to previous reports that North Vietnamese forces have reinforced Pathet Lao troops in this area. The Communists may be preparing to launch a counterattack to regain territory lost during the recent government offensive.

Reports indicate that Communist truck traffic along Routes 12 and 23 continues, but at a reduced level. We have no further information on Communist traffic along Route 7 following earlier reports which indicated fording activity at the destroyed Ban Ken bridge.

5. Colombia

The army is continuing to round up persons suspected of participating in the 7 January attack on the village of Simacota which was

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staged by the pro-Castro National Liberation Army (ELN). Meanwhile, operations continue in the Communist enclave in Marquetalia with Prensa Latina reporting that the army suffered two soldiers killed and two wounded on 15 January.

During the week beginning 18 January the armed forces went on an alert status to deal with civil disturbances anticipated in conjunction with a threatened general strike. No significant disturbances were reported, however, and there are indications that the alert may soon end.

6. Guatemala

The Castro-influenced guerrilla movement in Guatemala and the local Communist Party (PGT) appear to have achieved a more unified revolutionary front. The Communists, who previously were vacillating between a soft-line versus hard-line policy, had been the brunt of "do-nothing" charges from the guerrillas. These barbs and the increasingly unstable political situation appear to be the chief motivation behind the party's current espousal of violent revolution.

Guatemalan terrorists plan to devote 1965 to liquidating "enemies of the people." Representatives of the party, its youth branch, the university student association, and the united revolutionary front have formed a committee to organize and coordinate all terrorist activity. Names of professional men, military officers, and landowners who abuse the people are being solicited by the group so that the extremists can eliminate them.

The extremists lately have increased their propaganda assault against the government, which they describe as a repressive military dictatorship. By zeroing in specifically on local officials who have antagonized or mistreated the populace, the revolutionaries appear to have won some support from the peasantry.

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The extremists appear to have reached a new determination to work together, a development which enhances the limited threat they pose to the government. Communist propaganda suggests that they believe the current political scene--characterized by disunity among the military and dissatisfaction of the politicians with the military regime--is ripe for revolution.

7. Ecuador

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Students were involved in a number of violent incidents a year ago, but government troops kept the situation under control by surrounding the university and by making some arrests. Antijunta plotters, who tried unsuccessfully to turn last year's demonstrations into something more serious, may make a similar attempt this year. Although there has been some criticism of the junta's recent announcement of its intention to stay in power until 1967, the extremists are unlikely to make any more headway than they have in the past.

8. No significant developments of a counterinsurgency nature have been reported regarding Congo (Brazzaville), Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia-Somalia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Bolivia, Brazil, or Peru. (See next page)

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Banditry which may have been the work of members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) erupted in the cattle-raising western state of Apure during the week of 18 January. At least one rancher was killed. The national guard subsequently killed at least one of the attackers and wounded several others.

On 24 January guards at the army's general headquarters located on the outskirts of Caracas were fired upon by unknown assailants who took advantage of cover provided by the surrounding hills. No casualties were reported.

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